

DATE TYPED: August 29, 2011
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IN RE: Kelly Williams-Bolar

**STATE OF OHIO
ADULT PAROLE AUTHORITY
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

Date of Meeting: July 20, 2011

Minutes of the SPECIAL MEETING of the
Adult Parole Authority held at 770 West Broad Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43222 on the date indicated above.

SUMMARY:

Applicant's Name: Kelly Williams-Bolar

Type of clemency requested: Pardon

Conviction for which clemency sought: Summit County Case # CR-2009-10-3233 (Tampering with Records).

Reason clemency requested: Attorneys David Singleton and Angelina Jackson of the Ohio Justice & Policy Center, in a letter addressed to the Parole Board, listed two reasons as to why Kelly Williams-Bolar should receive a full and complete pardon of her convictions:

1. First, there was a genuine dispute with Copley-Fairlawn Schools over her daughters' rights to attend school tuition-free based upon the amount of time they were spending on Black Pond Drive. Whether Ms. Williams-Bolar was ultimately legally incorrect about that fact does not change that she genuinely believed the girls had a right to attend the school. Accordingly, Ms. Williams-Bolar sought input from the Ohio Department of Education and executed the grandparent power of attorney in an attempt to legitimately establish the girls' rights to attend school tuition-free, not to defraud the district. When the juvenile court determined the power of attorney was not valid, she did not re-enroll her daughters.
2. Second, these convictions have the potential to affect Ms. Williams-Bolar for the rest of her life. Criminal convictions of any kind, especially felony convictions, can interfere with employment, housing, and education opportunities. There are 33 statutory collateral consequences related to employment alone that Ohio law imposes in relation to her conviction. Ms. Williams-Bolar has dreamed of becoming a teacher since she was a child and is very close to completing her bachelor's degree. If these convictions stand, there is a very real possibility that she may never be able to fulfill those dreams.

Additionally, Ms. Williams-Bolar wrote in her application for clemency: "I am seeking a full pardon because my felony convictions will likely result in severe consequences for the rest of my life. I am 20 credit hours from receiving my bachelor's degree in early education and am certified to work as a teacher's aide with disabled children. I have no prior criminal record, and these convictions could render me unable to obtain a teaching license once I complete my degree. If this were to occur, it would be devastating for me in that I am a single mother raising two daughters. Additionally, I believe that my sentence of 5 years' incarceration (suspended) on each count and two years of community control with a number of highly restrictive conditions is very severe for what I have alleged to have done. I never intended to deceive anyone or to unlawfully obtain an education for my daughters."

Brief description of crime: Ms. Williams-Bolar tampered with government documents to allow her children to attend the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools.

Sentence imposed for crime: On January 15, 2011, Kelly Williams-Bolar was found guilty by way of a jury verdict to (2) counts of Tampering with Records, both of which are felonies of the third degree. The Jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on Count 1 of the indictment which pertained to the charge of Grand Theft; thus, a mistrial was declared on this count. The State of Ohio ended up dismissing the Grand Theft charge against Ms. Williams-Bolar on January 31, 2011

Ms. Williams-Bolar was sentenced on January 18, 2011 by Judge Patricia Cosgrove to five (5) years of incarceration, on each of the two counts of Tampering with Records. The judge ordered that these sentences be served concurrently with each other. The judge suspended this sentence upon the condition that Ms. Williams-Bolar complete two years of community control with the following sanctions: 1) Report to the Adult Probation Department as directed, pay \$20.00 per month fee for services rendered; 2) Serve 10 days in the Summit County Jail beginning January 18, 2011. Ms. Williams-Bolar was given credit for one day previously served in jail; 3) Complete 80 hours of community service; 4) Complete a mentorship program through NAACP or her church, and write the court a letter upon the completion of the program; 5) Maintain permanent full-time employment (40-60 hours weekly), and/or attend school, as directed by the Adult Probation Department; 6) Non-consumption of any illegal drugs or chemicals, including any alcoholic beverages; 7) Submit to random and frequent urinalysis testing, 8) Provide a DNA sample pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code sections 2901.07 & 2152.74; and 9) Pay the costs of prosecution as directed by the Adult Probation Department.

Payment of restitution, fines, court costs: No restitution was ordered in this case. The applicant has been paying her supervision fees as instructed.

Age at which offense committed: 36 years of age

Current age of applicant: 41 years of age

INTRODUCTION:

Parole Board Chair Ms. Cynthia Mausser received a letter dated February 8, 2011 from Governor John Kasich directing the Ohio Parole Board to review the case of Ms. Kelly Williams-Bolar and then to provide him with a recommendation on whether some form of executive clemency is warranted in her case. Under provisions set forth under Section 2967.07 of the Ohio Revised Code, a clemency action was initiated by the Adult Parole Authority. An investigation into the applicant's request was subsequently completed by the Field Services Section of the Adult Parole Authority.

Hearing Date: July 20, 2011

Those in attendance: The applicant Kelly Williams-Bolar attended the hearing represented by attorneys David Singleton and Angelina Jackson. Supporters for Ms. Williams-Bolar attended the hearing and will be referenced later in this report. Additionally, Assistant Prosecutors Brad

Gessner and Terri Burnside from the Summit County Prosecutor's Office attended the hearing to oppose clemency being granted in this matter.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CRIME:

Facts: From 2006-2008, Kelly Williams-Bolar resided in Akron, Ohio with her two children in a three-bedroom home provided by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority. During this same time period, she fraudulently enrolled her children in the Copley-Fairlawn schools by claiming in a sworn statement that she and her children lived with her parents in Copley, Ohio. During this same period, she misrepresented her income to obtain free lunches for her children.

Seriousness of Offense: Ms. Williams-Bolar falsified numerous government documents over a two year period of time. She repeatedly lied about her residency, and her actions placed a financial burden on the Copley-Fairlawn school district, who had to investigate and ultimately pursue criminal prosecution of this matter. Furthermore, Ms. Williams-Bolar ignored numerous invoices to pay tuition owed to the Copley-Fairlawn Schools. Williams-Bolar was given an opportunity to resolve this issue prior to any criminal charges being filed, but she chose to continue to engage in a pattern of deception. Additionally, the Akron Public School District, who receives state funding for each student attending its schools, was unable to receive funding for two students who, in reality, lived in its school district from 2006-2008.

Applicant's version: During the clemency hearing, Ms. Williams-Bolar told the Board that she loves her kids and that she would do anything for them. She shared that she was fearful for the safety of her children in that her home had been broken into in January of 2006. As a result, she did not want to leave her children home alone after school, or during the evening when she was attending classes at The University of Akron. Ms. Williams-Bolar stated that she enrolled her children in the Copley-Fairlawn school district under her father's address on Black Pond Drive and was deceptive to obtain this goal.

Applicant's remorse and acceptance of responsibility: Ms. Williams-Bolar admitted to the Parole Board that she is guilty of her crimes and that what she did was wrong. She appeared remorseful during her hearing and was tearful at various points during her presentation. She stated that, "Yes, I hurt a lot of people."

LEGAL PROCEEDING:

Court/County: Summit County Court of Common Pleas.

Trial: Kelly Williams-Bolar was found guilty by way of a jury verdict on January 15, 2011.

Proportionality of the Sentence: The sentence imposed upon Ms. William-Bolar is not considered by the Board to be disproportionate. Ms. Williams-Bolar received a very brief county jail sentence, in addition to community control. The maximum penalty for these crimes could have resulted in up to ten years in prison.

Appeal (if any): pending

SUPERVISION ADJUSTMENT:

Ms. Williams-Bolar was placed on two years of community control supervision on January 18, 2011. To date, she has completed approximately 6 months of her 2 years of community control. Per Ms. Williams-Bolar, she has completed 80 hours of community service at the Macedonia Baptist Church under the supervision of Pastor Lorenzo Glenn by completing odd jobs around the church. She also indicated that she has completed a mentorship program through her church, as ordered by the court, and has written her letter to Judge Cosgrove regarding the completion of this program. Ms. Williams-Bolar stated that she has not been asked to submit a urinalysis thus far to test for drugs, but she did report to the Board that she has not used drugs or alcohol.

APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CLEMENCY REQUEST:

At the hearing conducted on July 20, 2011, counsel for Ms. Williams-Bolar presented the following arguments in support of clemency:

- Ms. Williams-Bolar has been presented in the media as the “Rosa Parks of education”. They reject this label and have never claimed that this case was about education reform or Ms. Williams-Bolar wanting to get a better education for her children in a different school district. In fact, Ms. Williams-Bolar has no complaints about the education her children were receiving in the Akron City School District. This case has always been about the safety of Ms. Williams-Bolar’s children, and her desire to keep them safe. The fear for her daughters’ safety was created as a result of a burglary that occurred at her home in January, 2006. She simply found a solution to keep her kids safe, which was to enroll them in the school district where her parents resided, so that they could go to their home after school, and would not have to be alone at her Akron home. There is no question that Ms. Williams-Bolar made some mistakes, some of which were outright dishonest. Ms. Williams-Bolar feels bad about what she did and is genuinely remorseful about the costs of the investigation as well as the costs of the prosecution in this case.
- This case is not about innocence, nor is there a dispute regarding the statute under which Ms. Williams-Bolar was convicted. This was not a case about race or civil rights and Ms. Williams-Bolar has never made this claim. Rather, this is a case where Ms. Williams-Bolar was worried about the safety of her daughters, and has been severely punished, and the collateral consequences will be devastating for her future. Furthermore, they are not confident that Ms. Williams-Bolar will be granted an expungement for her convictions, due to the fact that the sentencing judge recently spoke out in the media regarding some of her feelings about this case, that are not favorable toward Ms. Williams-Bolar.
- With the benefit of hindsight, Ms. Williams-Bolar would not have made the mistakes that she did. Her actions were less criminal acts, and more sloppy mistakes. They accept the fact that the jury found Ms. Williams-Bolar guilty, but the context in which she committed these crimes needs to be examined so that the effects of the conviction are not long lasting. This case “struck a chord with the Governor,” and they are pleased to be

before the Board to make their arguments for a pardon. Ms. Williams-Bolar is a good mother and a gifted teacher who wants to teach special needs children. Her felony convictions will prevent her from helping these children, and therefore, has a much more far reaching impact than directly upon her.

Ms. Karla Wrinch, a friend of Ms. Williams-Bolar, appeared on her behalf and presented the following to the Board:

- She is a West Akron resident. She and Ms. Williams-Bolar are childhood friends and met when they were 12 years of age in school. Ms. Williams-Bolar is a good mother, protective of her kids, and loves them very much. She is a sweet person who was never in trouble. Ms. Williams-Bolar called her after the January, 2006 burglary at her home and was very shaken up. She went over to Ms. Williams-Bolar's house and saw that it was "torn up" as a result of the crime. It was apparent to Ms. Wrinch that Ms. Williams-Bolar was worried about leaving her girls home alone in the evening when she went to school. Despite the fact that her friend was dishonest, Ms. Wrinch does not feel differently about Ms. Williams-Bolar.

Ms. Ruby Flowers, a neighbor of Ms. Williams-Bolar, appeared on her behalf and presented the following to the Board:

- She is a neighbor of Ms. Williams-Bolar and is a retired teacher with the Akron Public Schools. She and Ms. Williams-Bolar have been neighbors since 2004. Ms. Flowers is also a block club member for the Hartford Avenue area in Akron. While the neighborhood she and Ms. Williams-Bolar live in looks like a good place to live, there are many dangers in the neighborhood. For example, her snow blower was stolen out of her garage, and many sex offenders live in the neighborhood. She also spoke of an incident where a young man was attacked, and another victim was shot in the leg about 5 months ago. She has to plan how to protect herself when she leaves her home. Ms. Flowers has known Ms. Williams-Bolar all of her life and considers her to be like a daughter. Ms. Williams-Bolar is a sweet person who is always willing to help her out. Ms. Williams-Bolar called her after her home was broken into in January of 2006, and was upset and concerned about the safety of her children. Her opinion of Ms. Williams-Bolar has not changed since she was convicted. While she does not approve of everything that Williams-Bolar did, she understands that mothers sometimes go beyond what should be done to help their children.

Mr. Dennis Cox, a friend of Ms. Williams-Bolar, appeared on her behalf and presented the following to the Board:

- Mr. Cox has known Ms. Williams-Bolar since he was 14 years old. They have stayed in touch with one another over the years. He, too, was aware of the burglary that took place at Ms. Williams-Bolar's home in 2006, and he stated that Ms. Williams-Bolar was distraught following the incident. He shared that he tried to convince her to move from Akron to Columbus where he lives following the incident, but she wanted to stay near her family. Mr. Cox has known Ms. Williams-Bolar to be an honest individual who has

always wanted the best for her kids. He also described her as an individual who is always striving to do better. Her conviction does not change his opinion of her, and he feels that she was under a lot of pressure, which caused her to commit the offense.

Ms. Betty Morrisette, a friend of Ms. Williams-Bolar, appeared and presented the following to the Board:

- She has known Ms. Williams-Bolar all of her life. She spoke of how upset Ms. Williams-Bolar was after the break-in, and stated that they discussed her getting a security system installed, because Ms. Morrisette's son is an electrician. Ms. Morrisette stated that the applicant is a sweet, loving and protective mother and that her dishonesty over this situation does not change her opinion of Williams-Bolar at all.

Ms. Lisa Bushner, another neighbor of Ms. Williams-Bolar appeared and presented the following to the Board:

- Ms. Bushner was also a victim of crime in December of 2007 in the same neighborhood. She came home late one evening from shopping when she was held at gunpoint and pushed into her Hartford Avenue home by an intruder. Her husband and children were inside the home at the time of the crime. Thankfully, her husband was able to charge at the intruder who then took off running. Ms. Bushner relayed this story to demonstrate another example of crime in their neighborhood. Ms. Bushner described the applicant as a wonderful person. She also indicated that her opinion of Ms. Williams-Bolar has not changed since her conviction, and she believes that Ms. Williams-Bolar felt violated, was scared, and had her back up against the wall.

Applicant Kelly Williams-Bolar also appeared on her own behalf and presented the following to the Board:

- She has been a student at The University of Akron on and off since 1988. She has enough credit hours to be considered a senior, but she previously made a mistake about the number of credit hours she has completed, referring to her trial testimony. Additionally, she is employed full-time as a teacher's assistant in the Akron Public School System. She stated she is considered a paraprofessional and works with kids who have special needs at Buchtel High School.
- Regarding her offense of conviction, she admitted that what she did was wrong, but she loves her kids and would have done anything for them, and described the 2006 burglary that occurred at her home. She indicated that she did not think about whether or not it was legally acceptable for her to enroll her children in the Copley-Fairlawn District. Rather, she was simply thinking about keeping her girls safe while she was in school during the evening hours, and that is the only solution she came up with to keep her daughters safe. However, when questioned by the Board, Ms. Williams-Bolar could not recall how many evenings a week she attended school or what times her classes began and ended.

- With regard to the student lunch forms, Ms. Williams-Bolar stated that she knew she qualified, but was confused by the forms. She stated that there was no intent to deceive anyone when completing the forms. She also stated that she panicked and fraudulently wrote deployed on an envelope mailed to her by the Copley-Fairlawn Schools, because she wanted them to stop sending her invoices. She was experiencing a lot of stress because of the investigations and because she was receiving monthly invoices, and she just wanted the school district to stop sending them to her. She again emphasized that she was only trying to keep her children safe.
- When asked specifically what she did wrong, Ms. Williams-Bolar stated she enrolled her daughters in the Copley-Fairlawn schools using her father's address. At the time, she didn't think it was wrong to do so because she considered both addresses as her residence. She stated that she now understands that it was wrong. She stated that she changed the addresses on various documents (driver's license, bank statements, etc) to that of her father's residence so her children could attend the Copley-Fairlawn Schools, but also stated that she changed her mailing address after the 2006 burglary so that her mail would be delivered to her father's residence, where she felt it would be safe. She also admitted to the Board that she lied at her residency hearing when she claimed that she and her daughters lived with her father.
- Ms. Williams-Bolar shared that she has been able to keep her position with the Akron Public Schools. However, her attorney stated that her employment is contingent upon the outcome of her appeals and the clemency decision. Additionally, Ms. Williams-Bolar has been able to continue to keep her residence with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority. Her convictions have not impacted her ability to attend college but could impact her ability to get a license either in social work or teaching. Ms. Williams-Bolar was unclear as to when she would go back to college, and ultimately acknowledged that she has not been accepted into the school of education, but must first complete prerequisites to raise her GPA to a level that meets the minimum entry level into that area of discipline.
- Ms. Williams-Bolar shared with the Board that she and her two daughters continue to live at the Hartford Avenue address in Akron. She remains at this address to provide stability for her daughters. She also pointed out that she now has an ADT security system that has been installed. This fall, one of her daughters will attend school within the Akron Public School District and the other one will attend Emmanuel Christian Academy by way of the EdChoice Scholarship Program.
- Ms. Williams-Bolar admitted to the Board that she never investigated other options for her daughters, such as looking at other open enrollment districts, latchkey programs, or asking friends or neighbors to babysit. She simply relied on her dad, and their collective solution was to enroll her children in the school district in which he resided. By doing so, her children would exit the bus very near his home, and could be looked after by him during after school hours. She did not move in with him, which would have legitimized her daughters' enrollment in the Copley-Fairlawn school district, because she did not

want to be a burden to him and wanted her independence. During the hearing, she was questioned repeatedly by Board Members about other alternative arrangements she could have made for her children, and her response was consistently, “I didn’t think of that.” Again, she was unable to recall her specific work and/or school schedule during this period of time that necessitated the need for her daughters to be at her father’s home after school. She could not recall if she went straight from work to class, and could not explain why she could not have simply picked up her children, then dropped them off at her father’s home before attending evening classes.

- Ms. Williams-Bolar indicated that she has continued to reside at the Hartford Avenue address in Akron. However, she then told the Board that she continues to use her father’s Black Pond address in Copley on her driver’s license, and just a few weeks prior, renewed that license maintaining the Black Pond address, despite the fact that she does not reside there. Later in the hearing, her counsel advised her to change her address on her driver’s license to the Hartford Avenue address.
- Ms. Williams-Bolar emphasized throughout her presentation to the Board that she loves her children and her actions were only intended to keep them safe. She failed to cooperate with school district officials because she was stressed and felt she had no other options.

Pastor Lorenzo Glenn also appeared on Ms. Williams-Bolar’s behalf and presented the following to the Board:

- He is the pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Akron, Ohio. He met Ms. Williams-Bolar in 1984 or 1985 when she worked at a day care at his former church. He stated that Ms. Williams-Bolar is a person of impeccable character. He knows that she loves her daughters and has a strong desire to better herself. She is always willing to care for everyone else’s children too. He has also had the opportunity to have several discussions with her about her decisions, and she admits what she did was wrong.

The final person to speak on Ms. Williams-Bolar behalf was Danita Palmer, who presented the following to the Board:

- Ms. Palmer met Kelly Williams-Bolar when they worked together at what was once known as the Summit County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability. She spoke as to how gifted Ms. Williams-Bolar is when it comes to working with individuals who have special needs. Ms. Palmer indicated Ms. Williams-Bolar is an honest, caring, flexible individual who is easy to get along with. They continue to work together at Buchtel High School.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE APPLICANT'S CLEMENCY REQUEST:

Summit County Assistant Prosecutors Brad Gessner and Terri Burnside represented the State of Ohio at the clemency hearing, and presented the following arguments in opposition to clemency:

- Prosecutor Gessner began his presentation by stating that what Ms. Williams-Bolar said to the Board today was “new to them.” He then reviewed a letter given to him by the Copley-Fairlawn School Board the evening prior to the clemency hearing. A portion of the letter reads as follows: “In the case of Ms. Williams-Bolar, the Board of Education was repeatedly lied to and intentionally deceived in an effort to circumvent both the law and Board policy. As such, the jury correctly applied the law and unanimously found her guilty, beyond a reasonable doubt, of laws that are appropriately crafted and measured to protect public institutions from being intentionally defrauded.” This letter goes on to state: “Any effort to reduce or otherwise mitigate the verdict or the sentence under these facts would communicate exactly the wrong message and result in significant hardship for Copley-Fairlawn Schools and many other districts in Ohio who are similarly situated, i.e. those districts which have a fiduciary duty to voters and taxpayers of their communities.”
- Prosecutor Gessner stated that this is not a case of selective prosecution and pointed out that between the years of 2006-2008, the Copley-Fairlawn School district conducted residency hearings for 47 other families. All of those cases were resolved with either proof of residency, parents removing their children, parents moving into the district, or parents agreeing to pay tuition to keep their children in the school. Ms. Williams-Bolar repeatedly refused to remove her children from the school and ignored invoices to pay tuition. Ms. Williams-Bolar was the only parent who refused to settle the matter and continued to lie and commit further acts of deception and fraud. This is why the Copley-Fairlawn School District brought the case to the attention of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office.
- Prosecutor Gessner stated that this case began in April of 2007 when the investigation of Ms. William-Bolar began. Ms. Williams-Bolar was not indicted until October of 2009, and in between she continued to fight and build on her deceptions. Prosecutor Gessner pointed out that Ms. Williams-Bolar had many opportunities to stop this case prior to it being sent to the Summit County Prosecutor's Office in November of 2008 by the Copley-Fairlawn School district.
- Prosecutor Gessner believes that Ms. Williams-Bolar's case is one that shows a significant pattern of deception. He then laid out the pattern of deception by showing the Board various documents where the applicant lied.
- Prosecutor Gessner showed the Board the 2006-2007 Free and Reduced Lunch form and the 2007-2008 Free and Reduced Lunch forms where Ms. Williams-Bolar marked her income down as zero. He also pointed out that Ms. Williams-Bolar listed her address as Black Pond Drive and signed the form where it stated “I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported.” The form clearly

points out that a person who purposely gives false information may be prosecuted. This fraudulent act resulted in one of Ms. Williams-Bolar's convictions for Tampering with Records.

- Prosecutor Gessner also shared that her second conviction for Tampering with Records applies to the fact that Ms. Williams-Bolar lied about her address on the official registration forms for her daughters with the Copley-Fairlawn Schools by listing her address as Black Pond Drive.
- Prosecutor Gessner stated that Ms. Williams-Bolar repeatedly lied at an audio-taped residency hearing stating that she lived on Black Pond Drive which is located in the Copley-Fairlawn District, despite the fact that she was presented with videotaped footage suggesting the contrary.
- In an attempt to further cover up her fraud, Ms. Williams-Bolar falsified documents at the Ohio Driver's License Bureau and the Summit County Board of Elections by changing her Akron address to the Copley address. She also changed the address of her credit union and with her employer. Ms. Williams-Bolar renewed her driver's license three months before it was necessary, and when so doing, she changed her address to the Black Pond address.
- Prosecutor Gessner pointed out that Williams-Bolar filed a sworn grandparents' power of attorney with the Summit County Juvenile Court giving the custody of her children to her parents, acknowledging that the affidavit was not being filed to enroll her children in the school system. This was filed after the residency hearing with the Copley-Fairlawn School. The validity of this document was challenged by the Copley-Fairlawn School District, and the Juvenile Court scheduled a hearing to address the document. Ms. Williams-Bolar called the court asking for a continuance and was told that a continuance would not be granted. She failed to attend the scheduled hearing. Ultimately, the Juvenile Court Judge ruled that the affidavit was not valid.
- Prosecutor Gessner stated that Ms. Williams-Bolar was confronted several times by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) as to whether or not she still qualified for subsidized housing. Eventually, she admitted that she lied about living in Copley and supplied AMHA with a handwritten statement admitting that she was only using the Copley address for school purposes. She also admitted to the AMHA investigator that she lied about her "deployment" to get the schools to stop sending her tuition invoices.
- Prosecutor Gessner shared that Ms. Williams-Bolar is not close to earning her college degree even though she has been a student since 1988. In fact, her GPA is not high enough for her to be admitted into any of the degree-granting colleges at The University of Akron. He also stated that Kelly Williams-Bolar has received approximately \$70,000 since 2005 in loans/grants to assist her through college. Therefore, her contention that she is close to receiving a degree in early childhood development is yet another lie. She has not been accepted into that college and will have to raise her GPA before she can

even apply to be accepted into that college. Her sincerity regarding her intention to obtain a degree is highly suspect.

- Prosecutor Burnside addressed the Board's question as to whether or not a plea bargain was offered in this case. She stated that hours of discussion were spent with defense attorneys to try and resolve this case. She indicated that a "global resolution" offer was made to both Ms. Williams-Bolar and her father Edward Williams, her co-defendant, but was not accepted. Ms. Williams-Bolar and her father were only being tried together on the Grand Theft charge. Prosecutor Burnside indicated that the Summit County Prosecutor's Office chose not to retry Ms. Williams-Bolar on the Grand Theft charge that resulted in a hung jury. The State had already received a conviction on the higher felony offense, and it was likely that the applicant would have still received community control if convicted on the Grand Theft charge at a retrial.
- Prosecutor Gessner ended his presentation by pointing out that since her indictment, Ms. Williams-Bolar has continued to deceive other agencies by continuing to fraudulently complete official forms. As an employee of Akron Public Schools, Ms. Bolar obtained medical coverage in 2008 for herself and her daughters. However, she did not advise the school that her children were also covered under their father's insurance. In fact, Ms. Bolar's application tells the district that the children are not covered under any other program. The district found out, and as a result of that fact, changed Ms. Williams-Bolar's insurance to single coverage. Ms. Williams-Bolar also applied for Medicaid for her children in June 2010, and indicated in the application that they were not covered under any other insurer. Prosecutor Gessner shared a document stating that both of Ms. Williams-Bolar's children have insurance coverage under their father's employment. They have had coverage since 1994 for the older child and 1998 for the younger child.
- Ms. Williams-Bolar then applied in August 2010 for a Federal Heating Assistance Program for her Hartford Avenue home. This program is managed locally by Akron Summit Community Action under the name HEAP. In that application, she indicated that she was not receiving any rental assistance, and further indicated that her daughters were covered by Medicaid and she was not covered by any medical insurer. She failed to report that she receives subsidized housing, that her daughters are covered under their father's medical insurance, and that she is covered under her employer's medical insurance plan.
- Prosecutor Gessner concluded by stating Kelly Williams-Bolar cannot be exempt from the law. He urged the Board to permit her conviction to stand and let her fight through the legal avenues of appeal rather than give her a "pass" on these acts. Additionally, he indicated that the Board would be sending the wrong message, because in this case the "system worked." Ms Williams-Bolar refused to resolve this situation outside of the criminal courts, and it is only her actions that caused the matter to be prosecuted. Prosecutor Gessner urged the Board to make an unfavorable recommendation to the Governor.

Post Conviction Conduct, Character and Reputation: The Board received numerous letters of support on behalf of Kelly Williams-Bolar. Additionally, multiple individuals spoke on Ms. Williams-Bolar's behalf regarding her character at the clemency hearing. Ms. Williams-Bolar is employed as an Intervention Specialist Assistant with the Akron Public Schools on a full-time basis where she works with special need students. She has been employed in this position since August 30, 2010. She is not currently enrolled in any college classes at the University of Akron.

Community Involvement: As previously mentioned, Ms. Williams-Bolar completed her community service hours at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Akron, Ohio.

Military Service: The applicant listed no military experience.

CONCLUSION:

Following careful examination of all the available information in this case, including a hearing to fully consider the merits, the Parole Board voted unanimously to submit an unfavorable recommendation regarding any form of clemency, including a pardon. The recommendation is based on the following:

- Ms. Williams-Bolar claims that her actions were based on her desire to keep her children safe, and had nothing to do with obtaining a better education for them as was widely publicized, as she was not dissatisfied with the education they were receiving at the Akron Public School district. It is difficult for the Board to follow the logic of how her children's enrollment in a different school district entails keeping her children safe *after school*, and was the real reason behind her enrollment of her daughters in the Copley-Fairlawn school district. She failed to utilize any legitimate means to resolve this safety issue, the extent to which she could not even recall, including moving in with her father who lives in a five-bedroom 3,000 square foot home, or researching after-school and/or babysitting options. Ms. Williams-Bolar was faced with a no more difficult situation than any other working parent who must ensure that their children are safe during before and after school hours in their absence. Most parents find legitimate and legal options to address this issue. Ms. Williams-Bolar's only response was to be deceitful.
- Ms. Williams-Bolar had the opportunity to move into the district and resolve this situation without any further action by the Copley-Fairlawn District. This particular option was not available to many of the other families that were also investigated. Instead, Ms. Williams-Bolar demonstrated a pattern of deceitful behavior, both before and after her criminal indictment. Moreover, post indictment and conviction behavior that was presented at the clemency hearing demonstrate that she continued this same pattern of conduct and deceitfulness.
- The Board also finds that the argument that Ms. Williams-Bolar should be granted a pardon due to the fact that her conviction will preclude her from becoming a teacher is not well-taken. Ms. Williams-Bolar is nowhere near to obtaining a college degree in any discipline, let alone in education or early childhood development. To date, she has not

been accepted into a degree-granting college at The University of Akron, despite the fact that she has been attending classes on and off since 1988. The consequence of her conviction is not a real harm, as she has hardly made the efforts necessary to obtain a degree to fulfill her desire to become a teacher. The Board does not find it appropriate to recommend a pardon based on a goal that appears unlikely to be sincerely pursued.

- The Board Members do not find that this was a case of selective prosecution or an honest mistake on the part of Ms. Williams-Bolar. Rather, she was convicted by a jury, and the sentence of a brief stay in jail and community control is not disparate or disproportionate.
- Ms. Williams-Bolar continues to misrepresent herself as living at her father's residence. She admitted during her clemency hearing that she had her driver's license renewed and listed her father's address as recently as a few weeks ago. She does not seem to understand nor accept the fact that the Black Pond address is not her legal residence, when she has resided and continues to reside at the Hartford Avenue address.
- Finally, the Board finds that Ms. Williams-Bolar needs to demonstrate compliance with the court's sentence, community supervision, and a substantial period of time in the community, without similar behavior, prior to clemency being considered. At this point in time, Ms. Williams-Bolar is a wholly undeserving candidate for any type of clemency.

RECOMMENDATION:

Following consideration of available information, the Ohio Parole Board, with eight (8) members participating, recommends to the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by a vote of eight (8) to zero (0), that Clemency in any form including a pardon should not be granted to applicant Kelly Williams-Bolar.

Kelley Williams-Bolar
Clemency Report

Adult Parole Authority
Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **Favorable**

Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **Unfavorable**



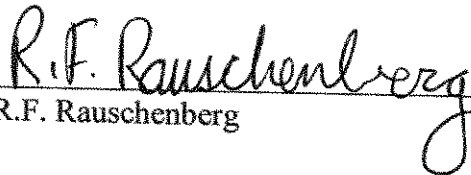
Cynthia Mausser, Chair



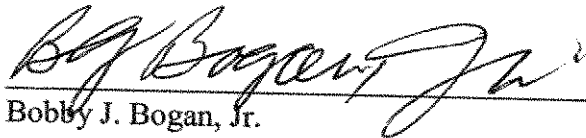
Kathleen Kovach



Ellen Venters



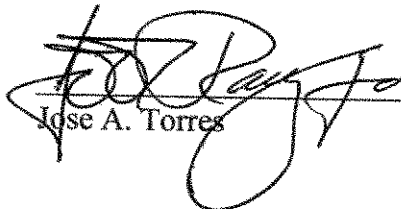
R.F. Rauschenberg



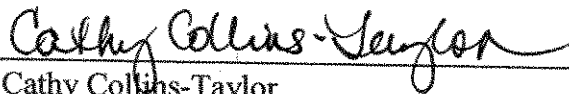
Bobby J. Bogan, Jr.



Trayce Thalheimer



Jose A. Torres



Cathy Collins-Taylor

The law of the State of Ohio and the policy of the Copley-Fairlawn City School District is that a tuition-free education will be provided only to those school-aged children whose parents or legal guardians are bona fide residents of the District. The Copley-Fairlawn City School District has neither the capacity – nor the legal authority – to expend taxpayer dollars to finance the education of those students who are not residents. In the circumstance of Ms. Williams-Bolar, the Board of Education was repeatedly lied to and intentionally deceived in an effort to circumvent both the law and Board policy. As such, the jury correctly applied the law and unanimously found her guilty, beyond a reasonable doubt, of laws that are appropriately crafted and measured to protect public institutions from being intentionally defrauded. The judge responded with appropriate sentencing, given the Defendant's wholesale refusal to accept any responsibility for her actions. Any effort to reduce or otherwise mitigate the verdict or the sentence under these facts would communicate exactly the wrong message and result in a significant hardship for Copley-Fairlawn Schools and many other districts in Ohio who are similarly situated, i.e. those districts which have a fiduciary duty to the voters and taxpayers of their communities.